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Secretary of State—H. Clay Crawford.
Comptroller—A. C. Croom.
Attorney-General—Wm. B. Lannan.
Treasurer—J. B. Whitfield.
Superintendent of Education—W. M. Smith.
Commissioner of Lands—H. E. McLean.
Adjutant-General—J. C. R. Foster.
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Representatives—B. M. Sparkman and R. W. Davis.

DeSoto County Directory.

Judge Circuit Court—J. S. Wall.
Clerk Circuit Court—H. E. Carlsen.
Sheriff—T. E. Fielder.
Tax Collector—J. R. Sandlin.
Tax Assessor—F. M. Cooper.
County Judge—A. E. Foster.
Superintendent of Schools—M. F. Giddens.
Representative—H. E. Brown.

Punta Gorda Directory.

Mayor—A. C. Freeman.
Marshal—J. H. Bowman.
Clerk and Assessor—W. B. Hardee.
Collector—Chas. Smith.
Treasurer—W. A. Roberts.
Justice of the Peace—W. B. Hardee.
Council meets in regular session on the first Tuesday of each month.

Arrival and Departure of Mails.

Northern Mail—Arrives 9:30 p.m. 15 a.m. daily; departs 4:30 p.m. and 7:05 a.m. daily.
South Bound—Leaves Punta Gorda by boat at 7 a.m. daily except Sunday; returning at 7 a.m. at 2 p.m.
Grove City and Englewood—Departs daily by boat at 7 a.m.; arrives at 2 p.m.
Charlotte Harbor and Harbor View—Departs daily by boat at 7 a.m.; arrives at 9:15 p.m.

JOSHUA MIZELL, Postmaster

Churches and Societies.

Episcopal Church, Rev. T. J. Purdie, rector. Services at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Sundays; Sunday school at 9:30 o'clock each Sunday afternoon.
Presbyterian—Rev. C. H. Ferris, pastor. Services second and fourth Sundays at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday school every Sunday afternoon at 9:30. Prayer meeting 7:30 p.m. Thursdays.

Methodist—Rev. H. W. Joiner, pastor. Services at 7 p.m. every Sunday and at 11 a.m. on the first and third Sundays at the Punta Gorda church; Sunday school every Sunday 10 a.m.; prayer meeting Wednesday evening of each week. Epworth League meets every Sunday 3:30 p.m. Charlotte Harbor Methodist church—Services at 7 p.m. on second and fourth Sundays and at 7 p.m. on Saturdays previous.

Punta Gorda Baptist Church—Rev. J. E. McIntosh, pastor. Services every Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Sunday school at 8:00 p.m. every Sunday. Prayer meeting every Tuesday night.

Seventh-day Adventist sabbath school 10 a.m. preaching 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Bible study Wednesday 7 p.m. C. B. Stephenson, Elder.

Y. P. S. C. E.—Meets every Tuesday evening in the Presbyterian church at 7:30.

Masonic—Punta Gorda Lodge No. 115, F. & A. M. Meets on Friday before second Saturday of each month in Masonic hall. J. M. Sandell, W. M.; R. L. Earnest, Sec.

Pythian—Tarpon Lodge No. 39, K. of P. Meets on Wednesday night of each week in Masonic hall. H. L. Blakey, C. C.; A. Roe, K. of H. & S.

Woodmen of the World—DeSoto Camp No. 19. Meets in Masonic hall second and fourth Thursdays. A. K. Demare, C. C.

Punta Gorda Business Directory.
A. Roe—Wholesale and Retail Hay, Grain, Fertilizers, etc.
Mrs. A. Roe—Manager Hotel Dade.
W. H. Burland—Physician and Surgeon.
A. F. Dewey—Owner and operator Charlotte Harbor Lighterage and Stevedore Co.
Jno. H. Farrington—Insurance.
M. V. Williams—Cashier Punta Gorda Bank.

The Earnest Dry Goods Co.—Dry Goods, shoes, Gent's Furnishings.
A. C. Freeman—Hardware and furniture.
J. W. Booth—Agent Plant System.
J. R. Elliott—Dry Goods and Notions.
R. K. Seward—Groceries, shoes, hats, etc.
Gents' Furnishings, Hardware, and Paints.
Geo. T. Brown & Co.—Wholesale Fish and Oysters.

A. W. Gilchrist—Real Estate, Insurance.
Punta Gorda Market and Ship Supply Co.—Meats, vegetables, produce and groceries.
C. J. Jack, City Bakery.
Pioneer Barber Shop—J. R. Rasmussen, proprietor.
T. O. R. Jameson—Fruits, confections, etc.
H. J. Spence and L. H. Trabue—Attorneys.
McLane & Oliver—Hardware, groceries.
J. B. Cox—Fruit, confections, cigars, tobacco, cool drinks, etc.

W. A. Roberts—Druggist.
J. L. Sandlin—Real Estate.
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BURGLAR, MOTHER AND CHILD

By Charles Welsted

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The moon dipped behind a cloud just as the old fashioned street lamp was extinguished. Stealing down a dark alleyway, the side entrance to the Elms, a large private residence on Boulevard D, was a lone figure. It halted beneath one of the lower windows and remained in a crouching attitude for at least ten minutes. Then it stood erect, a figure not more than five feet three, slender and active. The window opened slowly, and the figure disappeared. Moving like some creeping thing from room to room, the burglar finally emerged into the hall and quietly ascended the stairs, but suddenly came to a halt before a door through which came a dim light.

A child lay there alone. Through a second door, leading to an adjoining room, the burglar could discern the form of a woman, fully attired, asleep on a couch. It was a nurse. The burglar looked back at the child.

"Silkiness here, I guess; bad place for my work."

He stood intently watching the baby face resting on the snowy pillow. Then, lost in thought, he stole over to the cot.

"O God!" A moan of anguish came from the burglar's lips.

The little one stirred, and the burglar made a move toward the hall.

"Want—some—wattie," murmured the child. The curly head rolled restlessly. "Mamma, baby want dink."

At the sound of a voice from the adjoining room the figure disappeared quickly beneath the bed.

"Nursie's coming, dear." And the woman hurried to her charge. The hidden figure could have reached out and touched the hem of her dress.

"Poor little girl!" the nurse said soothingly.

"Glady's want mamma!"

"Oh, mamma is asleep, dearie. Baby wouldn't wake mamma!"

"Mamma, mamma!" pleaded the child. As if in answer, from down the hall a low, sweet voice called softly: "Mamma's coming, pet."

In a moment a woman entered the room and crossed quickly to the bedside. Reaching over, she kissed the feverish lips and forehead.

"Mamma's here, darling." The little arms reached up and were clasped about her neck. "Glady's loves mamma," whispered the child. "Mamma stay with baby!"

"Yes, darling, mamma will stay." She folded the babe in her arms and busied her to sleep. Then she crossed the room to where the nurse was sitting in silence.

They whispered together in low tones. The figure beneath the bed was eagerly straining to catch every word. "She is a little better, nurse, is she not?" the mother asked anxiously.

"I think so, madam. This is the first time she has awakened since 5 o'clock. You had better rest while she is asleep."

"I cannot bear to leave her. If that child were my own flesh and blood, I could not love her more. She was brought by the police to the Orphan Asylum of the Gray Nuns in Montreal one day when Mr. Rogers and I were visiting the institution. She has brought such happiness into our lives! The evenings we have spent at our home during the two years we have had Glady's have been more than all the rest of my life to me."

Both sat in silence. Ten minutes passed, and the burglar beneath the bed was getting restless. The mother was speaking slowly again, as if in thought.

"Poor little darling! The police say her mother was a wretched creature and the father a confirmed criminal, a brute of a man. Both were serving a term in prison when we took baby. Think of it, nurse—a sweet, innocent little tot like that from such parents! La Roche, I think their name was. They know nothing of the child's whereabouts."

Tears glistened in the woman's eyes as she looked tenderly and yearningly at the sleeping baby and left the room. The nurse lingered a few moments by the child's cot. Then she turned the light low and stole back to the adjoining room. Later heavily breathing told the burglar beneath the sick child's bed that the household was asleep once more, but for how long?

He crawled out stealthily, but did not lasten from the room. While yet in a kneeling posture, very awfully he raised the child's tiny hands and kissed them passionately, then reached over and kissed the fevered forehead. A smile passed over the little one's face. The child was evidently dreaming.

"Me loves mamma," she murmured in her sleep.

A tear fell on the baby's curly head. "O God, what punishment!"

With a look of unutterable anguish the thief hastily slipped from the room and down to the stairway.

Some one was ascending the stairs. The burglar ran to the nearest window and fired a shot. There were a piercing scream and a crash. The man on the stairs, startled, reached to his hip pocket, but all was silent again except for a low groan which rose from the court below. He hurried to the head of the stairs and peered out into the darkness. The rattling of the fire escape was broken, but that was all he could see.

"Listen," said the doctor, who had just entered. "Some one is hurt."

"Burglars!" whispered the other. "Be careful, doctor. Wait a moment, and I'll go down with you."

The two men reached the court below. Faint groans came from the angle near the gateway.

"Who's there?" asked the doctor. "Are you hurt? Strike a match, Mr. Rogers."

On the couch in the library they stretched the unconscious form of the burglar.

"He'll not get over this in a hurry, poor devil! Call up the hospital for an ambulance, Mr. Rogers."

The man went to the phone, and the doctor turned on more light. Lifting the burglar's head, he looked closely into the face. "Where?" he whispered. Then, as he heard Rogers returning, he lowered the lights. "I will go with this poor fellow to the hospital. I'd like to watch his case."

In a few moments the changing of a gown told of the arrival of the ambulance.

"The women are nervous. You had better stay with them," he said. "Tell them the fellow is all right—anything not to excite them."

"May, dear," said the husband next morning as his wife entered the breakfast room after a visit to the sick chamber, "how is Glady's?"

"Much better. The temperature has fallen, and she will surely get well now."

At the same hour the house surgeon on duty at St. John's hospital was looking over an entry in the record book. He read:

Gertrude Dressler, alias Mrs. Theodore La Roche, alias Ned Davis (criminal); killed by fall from the third story of the residence of James Rogers, Boulevard D, while in the act of burglarizing the place; was dressed in male attire; age, thirty-one; nationality, French Canadian; relatives—husband serving life sentence, Montreal; daughter confined in orphan asylum, Montreal.

Have No Limitations.
Make up your mind that the Creator made you to enjoy life and to have all the good things in this world necessary to your well being and moral and spiritual growth. Think large things for yourself, for the all powerful ruler did not set for you the narrow limit which you have in mind. Limitation in thought will certainly produce limitation in possession. If you are convinced that you will never have much, that you are poor and will remain so, the chances are ten to one that you will.

How can you expect to expand your life, to enlarge your possessions, to widen your sphere, while you think and talk limitation? Enlarge your horizons, be generous to yourself in thought and ambition. The creator never made people to limp along the starvation line; there are enough resources in the world to make everybody well, happy and contented. The great trouble with us is that we circumscribe ourselves by thinking within narrow limits. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is." Success.

Odd Wedding Customs.
In Switzerland the bride on her wedding day will accept no one, not even her parents, to kiss her upon the lips. In many of the provinces the cook pours hot water over the threshold after the bride couple have gone in order to keep it warm for another bride.

There is an old superstition in Germany against May marriages.

A favorite wedding day in Scotland is Dec. 31, so that the young couple can leave their old life with the old year and begin their married life with the new one; surely a pretty idea.

The Italians permit no wedding gifts that are sharp or pointed, from which the gift of a knife seems friendly.

One of the most beautiful of all marriage customs is that of the bride, immediately after the ceremony, flinging her bouquet among her maiden friends. She who catches it is supposed to be the next bride.

Wigs in Courts.
Before the reign of Charles II. judges wore either a velvet cap, a three cornered hat or a eel, but in 1660 the peruke came over from France, and the grave aspect which it gave to an otherwise commonplace face was appreciated at once by judges and doctors, who immediately adopted it. The former have stuck to it ever since.

Barriers, seeing how good was the effect of a wig, attempted to copy their seniors' example, but the judges had no idea of their copyright being infringed and made things so unpleasant for their imitators that it was nearly half a century later before wigs were universally adopted in law courts.—London Globe.

Paraguay Tea.
Mate, or Paraguay tea, which is the favorite beverage among a population of some 20,000,000, grows wild in the woods of the southern half of South America. For many years its cultivation was a lost art. Although large plantations were planted by Jesuit missionaries more than a century ago, later attempts to raise the plant were fruitless, and not until recently have new plantations been established in Paraguay. The secret of cultivation, it is alleged, is that the seeds will not germinate until treated with a potassium salt.

The Whole Band.
When the Rev. Dr. Newman Hall was in this country in 1867, he attended a meeting of the American board in Buffalo and was entertained by the Rev. Dr. Wolcott Calkins and family. Those were days when the coming of the board to a city or town created considerable stir, and when Dr. Hall entered the house one of the children exclaimed, "The board has come!" and early next morning a child's voice at his door kindly asked, "Will the board like some coffee?"

One or the Other.
"What do you think of that wheel?" asked Sprockets, whose bicycle had been in a collision.

"I think it ought to be retired or retired," replied Dinwiddie.—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

The County Executive Committee

Met May 7th and Adopted Very Liberal Rules.

The County Democratic Executive Committee met in Arcadia, Wednesday, May 7th, with the following members present:

precinct No. 1, Fort Green, W. A. Hendry; No. 2, Wauchula, A. G. Smith; No. 3, Lily, W. R. Varn; No. 4, Charlotte Harbor, S. E. Giddens, proxy for T. S. Knight; No. 7, Punta Gorda, J. R. Sandlin; No. 8, Arcadia, C. W. Forrester; No. 11, Zolfo, S. L. Griffin; No. 16, Calvinia, H. A. Ellis, proxy for T. E. Fielder; No. 17, Nocatee, B. F. Baldwin; No. 18, Owens, B. L. Blackburn; No. 19, Cleveland, Jno. T. Holleyman; No. 20, Oak Hill, M. F. Lanier.

The rest of the precincts were not represented.

The meeting was called to order; W. R. Varn chosen temporary secretary; minutes of last meeting read and approved, and the following business transacted:

S. L. Griffin was accepted as a member from Zolfo in place of Dr. Davis, removed from the county.

Moved by B. L. Blackburn, that all white electors, without regard to past party affiliations be and they are hereby invited to vote in the democratic primaries to be held in this county on July 15 and August 12 next, provided that by participating in said primaries they are pledged to support in the ensuing general election, the democratic national, state and county candidates nominated at said primary. Seconded by A. G. Smith and carried.

On motion of B. L. Blackburn, duly seconded by B. F. Baldwin, it is ordered that the various candidates be allowed until the 15 day of June, 1902, to file with the chairman of this committee a list of qualified voters to be agreed upon by a majority of the candidates, before the primary, from which to select the inspectors and clerks of said primary; that in the event a majority of the candidates fail to send in such list within the time prescribed, each member of the executive committee send to the chairman on or before the 25th day of June, 1902, an appointment in writing of inspectors and clerks each for his own district, then and in that event the campaign committee to be hereafter appointed by this committee, be and they are hereby authorized to appoint such inspectors and clerks for any district wherein no appointment of inspectors and clerks have been made.

That in the event a majority of the candidates agree upon a list of voters from which the inspectors and clerks may be selected, said campaign committee be bound by it only so far as they deem advisable and the said campaign committee be and it is hereby empowered to pass upon the appointment of the inspectors and clerks as recommended by the candidates. On vote the motion was carried.

Moved by B. L. Blackburn that all who desire to become candidates before the primary be allowed until on or before the first day of July, 1902, to file with the chairman of the campaign committee to be hereafter appointed notice in writing of their intention and desire to become such candidate, and that all such candidates be allowed the same time to pay the said chairman, or to a treasurer to be designated by the campaign committee, the sum of money assessed against such candidate for the purpose of defraying the expenses of said primary, and that no candidate's name be placed upon the ballot for said primary who fails to comply on or before the date mentioned with the above requirements as to filing written notice of candidacy and payment of assessment. The motion was seconded by B. F. Baldwin and was carried.

C. W. Forrester, J. H. Hancock, T. E. Fielder, B. F. Baldwin and M. F. Lanier were appointed a campaign committee with full power for calling, controlling, arranging for and regulating the primary, a majority of said committee to act for the whole.

S. L. Griffin resigned as committeeman on account of being a candidate.

Moved and carried that in arranging the ticket for the primary election the same be so arranged by the campaign committee as to get an expression from the voters as to whether or not they favor the establishment of a State Bureau of Life Assurance for the state of Florida.

Moved and carried that in addition to the qualifications above prescribed for voters who participate in said primary elections must be qualified electors.

Committee adjourned to meet in the courthouse July 20th.

Japanese Archers.
In Japan archers test their arrows by balancing them on the nails of the second and third fingers of the left hand and rapidly twirling them by the feathers out with the fingers of the right hand. If the arrow makes a whirling sound, it is crooked and must be straightened.

AN EMPHATIC HINT.

Some young ladies may profit well by using the following formula from the Quincy Herald and Era:

"A young lady of this city had a beau who was in the habit of calling at her home six nights in the week and staying so late that he became a nuisance. The other evening as the clock struck eleven she gave him a pencil and paper and told him to make eleven elphers in a straight line and draw a perpendicular line down from the right side of the first, and a line up the right side of the fourth, down on the right side of the fifth, up on the right side of the seventh and eighth and down on the right side of the tenth, the lines to be about an inch in length. Then she told him to read what he had written. The hint was most startling and the fellow has not been seen since."

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF IT ALL?
Never in the history of Florida have politics been so quiescent as they are today. A spirit of general satisfaction or "don't careness" seems to be everywhere prevalent.

It now looks as if Senator Mallory will have no opposition in his race for the senate, and Mr. Sparkman nor Mr. Davis in their race for congress. In this county there are only three candidates for legislative honors, while hitherto there have never been less than six, and the parties holding the important offices of treasurer, tax assessor and tax collector have no opposition, and no one is even named for the offices of county commissioner and registration officer.

What is the meaning of it all?
—Ocala Banner.

WILL BUILD MORE SHARPIES.
Owing to the increase in business and the growing demand for the incomparable fish of these waters, the Chadwick Brothers Fish Co., of which Jno. C. Lewis is manager, have ordered material for two new new sharpies and expect to build three.

The Punta Gorda Fish Co., composed of those fine gentlemen Messrs. Knight, Dreggors and Smith, have all the materials on hand for two new sharpies, each to be 48 feet long, and work on them was expected to begin this week.

Geo. T. Brown & Co. have bought a fine sharpie, the "W. G. Wallace," now in North Carolina, and are negotiating for another.

The Florida Fish and Produce Co. will build one sharpie and six small boats. In fact all the dealers will add to their fleet of small boats.

Thus at least seven sharpies will be added to the fishing fleet in these waters, and the operations of the Consolidated Ice and Fish Freezing Co. will call for an extra fleet of twenty-five to fifty sharpies and smacks.

Punta Gorda is already the largest fish-shipping port on the Gulf of Mexico and the business grows larger every season.

CAUGHT FORTY TARPON.
In two days last week, the guests of Useppa Inn caught forty tarpon at Captiva Pass. Thirty-one were taken in one day.

The largest weighed 179 pounds and was landed by Mrs. L. R. Ferguson, of Louisville, Ky.

Mrs. J. Turner-Turner landed six in one day.

Such glorious sport is not to be found anywhere else in the United States. Somebody ought to tell "Uncle" Grover Cleveland what genuine exhilaration is and where to find it—in these waters.

Stocking Florida Waters With Fish.
To the Editor of Ocala Banner:

Car No. 4, United States Fish Commission, in charge of Capt. Chas. W. Burnham, arrived in Florida May 7, loaded with shad fry